- **WORLD / A28** 500,000 in LA slam immigration crackdown
- **METRO / A26** Pinoy figure-skating ice hockey teacher one of Asia's best
- **BUSINESS / B3-1** Junior taipans to ask China to invest in RP

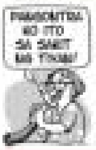
- **ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1** More mainstream stars doing indie movies

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, March 27, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 109 P18

70-year-old is festival's fastest tobacco roller



By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

CANDON CITY—TERESITA Galante, at the age of 70, makes fun of those who say smoking is dangerous to your health.

Galante first lit a roll of tobacco grown in her native

70-YEAR-OLD A2

'Abadilla 5' death convicts seek help of United Nations

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

TWO OF THE FIVE CONVICTS WHO HAVE BEEN sentenced to death under a cloud of controversy for the killing of a decorated military officer 10 years ago have complained to the United Nations about the undue delay in the resolution of their case.

The two death convicts—Lenido Lumanog and Augusto Santos—have filed a complaint against

ABADILLA A2

Senators to block Cha-cha campaign

GMA allies in House confident of victory

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

AN ADMINISTRATION senator yesterday served notice of the Senate's determination to block a Malacañang-backed signature campaign to change the Constitution, while two other senators said the Supreme Court could decide the battle.

Mincing no words, however, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles indicated that the majority party was prepared to fight it out with the Senate to push through with the so-called people's initiative as a mode of amending the 19-year-old Charter.

"Let's see who is the last man standing," Nograles told the Inquirer.

The verbal exchange was triggered by the launch of a people's initiative using barangays across the country to gather signatures to support the proposal to rewrite the Constitution and install a parliamentary system in place of the country's presidential form of government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is herself engaged in the campaign to set up a parliamentary system in what critics said was part of her efforts to survive the political crisis hounding her since the "Hello Garci" scandal broke out nine months ago.

A group supporting Charter change, the Sigaw ng Bayan Coalition, claimed the people's initiative had collected four million signatures as of Sunday and that only one million more signatures were needed to comply with the constitutional require-

SENATORS A22

OPERATORS, collectors and bettors of the PCSO's Small Town Lottery, who were arrested during police raids in Quezon City, are presented to media at Camp Karingal, along with the confiscated cash and betting paraphernalia.

QC clamps down on STL; cops arrest 63

By DJ Yap
Metro
and Luige A. del Puerto

CONFUSION MARKED THE TEST run of the "Small Town Lottery" with police raiding outlets in Quezon City over the weekend.

The STL is a project of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) that is supposed to replace the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

Police said that as far they knew, STL operations were "still on hold." But an official of the Department of Interior and Local Government said Malacañang had given the PCSO one year to conduct STL test runs.

"The PCSO is authorized by law, by its charter, to operate games of chance," according to Interior Assistant Secretary Bryan Yamsuan.

Yamsuan said there was an agreement to conduct STL test runs over the weekend. "(But) if there is no [mayor's] permit, if there are illegal bookies, then we will make arrests," he said.

Quezon City's clampdown on the STL went into full swing the other night following the raid on four outlets and the arrest of more than 60 operators and collectors.

Top executives of Benchmark Acquisition International Corp., the STL franchise holder in the city, were "invited for questioning" but later released. No charges were filed.

In separate "blitzing opera-

QC CLAMPS A6

Marcosian ploy seen in 'people's initiative'

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION has launched its campaign to undertake a fundamental revision of the 1987 Constitution through a "people's initiative," whipping up straightaway a political storm over its dubious legality and the methods used to galvanize grass-roots signatures to support the initiative.

In a move attacked by her critics as a "desperate" act of regime survival, President Macapagal-Arroyo kicked off the drive with her back against the wall, after she had repulsed a sustained siege of her opponents to oust her, including numerous "people power" calls, an impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives and, only in February, a coup attempt.

The attempted coup was the most serious case of military intervention to unseat her since she took office in January 2001.

Ms Arroyo's survival against this widely ranging repertoire of challenges—some outright extra-constitutional and others within the parliamentary framework—reveals her resilience.

But, more than that, it underlines the acute issue that, unless the underlying question of her legitimacy is resolved, she will not be allowed any moment of peace.

In falling back on a people's initiative as one of the modes spelled out to revise the Constitution, the President is trying to turn the tables on the militants of the Gloria-resign movement that had believed they could mobilize people power behind them, but failed, much to their grief.

Ms Arroyo is now trying to deploy people power in reverse—tap the rural-based people power and pit it against the urban-based people power that had been the recruitment base of People Power I and II.

This sharpens the deep social and political cleavage dividing the city and country political cen-

MARCOSIAN A22

CSC reels from GMA prerogative to appoint execs

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(First of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIdent has repeatedly abused its prerogative to appoint thousands of government executives, many of whom either have questionable backgrounds or lack civil service eligibility and other necessary credentials.

No less than Civil Service Commission Chair Karina Constantino David made the disclosure in an interview with the Inquirer.

The abuse has become endemic, noted David, who has been head of the independent constitutional body since 2001.

The Arroyo administration has been treating the bureaucracy as something that is answerable to its whims and not to civil service regulations, according to David.

(The CSC chair is the wife of Randy David, a university professor and Inquirer columnist who was among the demonstrators arrested immediately after the Feb. 24 declaration by President Macapagal-Arroyo of the short-lived state of national emergency.)

Karina David cited several presidential appointee-related cases that had challenged the commission's mandate as the overseer of the state workforce and source of expert advice on public personnel administration.

A case in point is Dr. Esperanza Abriol whom the Palace named administrator of the presidential Mansion in Baguio City.

Abriol was already 73 when she assumed the post last year.

CSC REELS A21

Chapel built on hope draws steady stream of pilgrims

By Christian V. Esguerra

EVERYTHING THE FILIPINO EVERYMAN probably needs to know to survive the raging crises can be found in a low-key chapel in Marikina City.

There is always hope, this is the reminder radiating from the Chapel of the Magnificat, a majestic, octagonal structure at the entrance to the Marist School in Barangay Marikina Heights.

The chapel was built around the theme "Order out of Chaos" six years ago amid calls for the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada for allegedly plundering the public coffers.

With history seemingly repeating itself today, Bro. Manuel de Leon, the man who had it built in time for the Church's Jubilee Year, believes the message has more relevance now.

"One message our history and faith always teaches us is the permanence of hope whatever the odds," he tells the Inquirer.

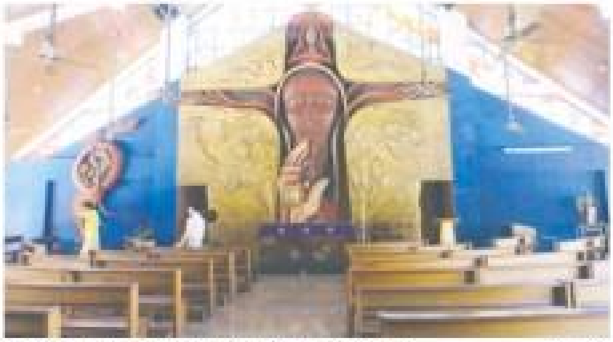
The chapel was also built on hope.

It took the school more than 22 years to come up with the P20 million needed to build the chapel along with the commitment and invaluable help of its alumni and the community, says De Leon, head of the Marist Brothers of the Philippines.

Today, the Chapel of the Magnificat attracts a steady stream of pilgrims. Not a few visitors have been drawn by its rich symbolism pertaining to a "contemporary concept of Filipino spirituality," says De Leon.

The central figure is the backdrop of the

CHAPEL A21



A MASSIVE face of Jesus is the altar backdrop of the Chapel of the Magnificat.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONT PAGE

TEVES ADVISES SOLONS TO DEBATE CHARTER

‘Remove onerous economic provisions’

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—FINANCE Secretary Margarito Teves said Congress should begin debating the economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution and agree to remove its restrictive policies to draw more foreign investments in to the country.

TEVES

Solon cries foul over disclosure of COA report

Bernas statement draws barbs, stirs ‘initiative’ debate

No reason for budget delay – Bunye

MALACAÑANG SEES NO REASON FOR the Senate not to be able to act swiftly on passing the much-delayed P1-trillion national budget for 2006.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye noted the Senate had held "advanced" hearings on the budget even before this was approved by the House of Representatives.

"That's why we don't see any hindrance to its approval," Bunye told DZRB radio yesterday in an interview.

The House last week passed the proposed 2006 budget three months into 2006. The government is currently operating under the reenacted 2005 budget. This was the third year in a row the budget had been delayed, forcing the government to operate on the previous year's outlay.

But while the House had been deliberating on the budget, known as the General Appropriations Act for 2006, the Senate had convened itself into a committee of the whole in order to start its own discussions on the measure.

Bunye said the House was likely to submit the budget to the Senate this week.

"We know that at the proper time, the Senate would need to act on it," he said.

Bunye made the statement after he was asked how Malacañang intended to push for the P48-billion defense program announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Baguio City the other day, in the event the Senate did not pass the budget measure. *Christine O. Avendaño*

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2006 A

Fake SSS claimants arrested

[illegible]

Pope appoints new bishop to Iligan see

[illegible]

Customs chief named new head of agency against smuggling

MORALES

[illegible]

Corrections

[illegible]

Free!
upon purchase of
LATEST model of
TOSHIBA
TOSHIBA
T9
XGA
P 72,000.xx
3 YEARS WARRANTY
BRAIN
BRAIN

COGENT DB+

STRETCH YOUR MONEY.
STRETCH YOUR LEGS.
LANCER
MITSUBISHI LANCER INTRODUCES VERY AFFORDABLE FINANCING. GET MORE CAR FOR YOUR MONEY.
LANCER
Do you want to drive?
See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!

QC clamps down on STL; cops arrest 63

Mayor orders crackdown

Cops unaware of memo

Implementing rules

Operator to file civil case

70-year-old is festival's fastest tobacco roller

Smokers are winners

THE DAILY GOSPEL

'Humane treatment for Erap'

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS FOR the "humane treatment" of former President Joseph Estrada, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"She's all for the humane treatment of the former President but everything must be within the bounds of law," Bunye said, explaining Ms Arroyo's position on Estrada who is facing plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Bunye made the statement on RMN radio when asked to comment on the claim of Leonardo de Vera, convenor of Equal Justice for All, that Estrada might not have to spend a day in prison even if he were convicted because of a two-year-old executive order issued by the President granting clemency to septuagenarians serving time.

But Bunye said he was not familiar with Executive Order No. 155 and told RMN radio he would need to check on this.

Still, he said, it was always the President's belief that Estrada should be accorded "humane treatment."

Likewise, Ms Arroyo was leaving it to the Sandiganbayan to decide Estrada's plunder case.

"She is not interfering because she knows the Sandiganbayan is independent and should be free in assessing the evidence presented in the ongoing trial," Bunye said.

He repeated his earlier call to all sectors not to speculate on the outcome of Estrada's plunder trial.

"We believe the Sandiganbayan will decide based on the merits of the case and on the evidence presented to them," Bunye said.

Pinoys target Aussies libraries

THE PHILIPPINE consulate in Sydney has embarked on a project to promote the Philippines through Australia's libraries.

Called the "Read Philippines Project in Australia," the project aims to "encourage the appreciation and awareness of Philippine cultural heritage by enhancing the existing collection of books and audio-visual materials on the Philippines in Australian libraries," the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The consulate has partnered with the Blacktown City Libraries and the Philippine-Australian Society for Senior Citizens Inc. in the project.

Blacktown City, located 36 kilometers west of Sydney, is home to the largest concentration of Filipino residents in Australia.

Young Filipino-Australians, their friends and the community at large are the target audience of the project, Consul General Maria Theresa [illegible] said.

The project would make information on the Philippines "readily accessible to the Australian public," [illegible] added.

Under the project, Filipino community organizations would "adopt" a public library and donate educational books, videos and CD-ROMs that would provide "quality information" about the Philippines. [illegible]

Schools allowing abusive tutors to be shut

MILF says child soldiers not used for combat

'Fight to survive'

'Rehabilitation'

Toxic waste spills into Lucena river

Money continues to pour in for landslide victims

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Waste of time, money and energy

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Betting on the fox

EDITORIAL

That alone should give all of us pause.

Logic 101

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Snap election talk

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Red hat for a son of Mindanao

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

Rule of the lawless

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

Teachers for excellence

COMMENTARY

Evelyn Mejillano

Last two minutes

LETTERS

—CECIL PERALTA

Gonzales greater threat than the communists

Butchering dogs is illegal

Measures to contain oil spill promptly taken

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Board of Foreign Service Examinations of the Department of Foreign Affairs announces the holding of the -

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER (FSO) EXAMINATION

to recruit candidates for appointment to the position of Foreign Service Officer Class IV (FSO IV).

The Examination is composed of three (3) parts which will be held on the following dates:

Qualifying Test:	28 May 2006
Written Examination:	23, 24 and 25 August 2006
Oral Examinations:	To be determined at a later date

IMPORTANT:

(1) Application forms and relevant information regarding the examination may be downloaded from the Department of Foreign Affairs website (www.dfa.gov.ph). Forms may also be obtained personally or requested through mail from the following offices of the Department of Foreign Affairs:

DFA Main Office: Board of Foreign Service Examinations, Department of Foreign Affairs, DFA Building, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City * Tels. (02) 834-3080, 834-3083 * Fax (02) 551-5976

DFA RCO Lucena: 3rd Floor, Pacific Mall Lucena, M.L. Tagarao St., Barangay III, Lucena City * Tels. (042) 710-4526 * Fax (042) 373-1898 * Email: dfarcolc@pldtdsl.net

DFA Mindanao and DFA RCO Davao City: Ebro-Pelayo Building, E. Jacinto Street, Davao City * Tels. (082) 227-3900, 224-4885, 227-0713 * Fax (082) 221-4552, 227-0712 * Email: davaorco@ultimate.info.com.ph, davaorco@yahoo.com

DFA RCO Cagayan de Oro: Geleng Building, Lapasan Highway, Cagayan de Oro City * Tels. (08822) 724-309, 720-122 * Fax (08822) 726-578 * Email: rcocdo@yahoo.com

DFA RCO La Union: Pasado Building, Pagdalagan Norte, San Fernando, La Union * Tels. (072) 888-3733, 242-7694 * Fax (072) 888-5484 * Email: dfa_launion@sflu.com

DFA RCO Clark Field: Balikbayan Shopping Mall, Claro M. Recto Avenue, Clarkfield, Angeles, Pampanga * Tels. (045) 599-7777 * Fax No. (045) 599-6555 * Email: rcopampanga@yahoo.com

DFA RCO Cebu: Causing Lozada Building, Osmena Blvd. cor Lapu-lapu Street, Cebu City * Tels. (032) 256-3193 * Fax (032) 256-0624, 253- 6798 * Email: dfacebu@cvis.net.ph, cebu@dfa.gov.ph

DFA RCO Iloilo: Yulo Street, Iloilo City * Tels. (033) 336-1737 * Fax (033) 335-0221 * Email: dfa_ilo@mozcom.com

DFA RCO Zamboanga: Go-Velayo Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City * Tels. (062) 991-4398 * Fax (062) 991-7958 * Email: rcozambo@jetlink.com, zamboanga@dfa.gov.ph

DFA RCO Legazpi: 3/F City Hall Building, Legazpi City * Tels. (052) 480-3000, 820-3396 * Fax (052) 480-1773 * Email: info@dfalegazpi.bayandsl.ph, admin@dfalegaspi.bayandsl.ph

DFA RCO Tacloban: Leyte SMED Center, Capitol Site, Tacloban City * Tels. (053) 321-8232, 321-8233 * Fax (053) 321-8237 * Email: taclobanrco@dfa.gov.ph, dfa_rcotac@globline.com.ph

DFA RCO Tuguegarao: Municipal Building, Tuguegarao, Cagayan Valley * Tels (078) 846-2310, 846-1482 * Fax (078) 846-2310 * Email: fritzie_rcotug@yahoo.com

(2) Application forms may also be obtained from the Regional Offices of the Civil Service Commission.

(3) Completed application forms together with the documentary requirements must be returned to any of the DFA Regional Consular Offices enumerated above not later than **10 May 2006**, or to the DFA Main Office not later than **12 May 2006**, for evaluation and processing.

Across the NATION

SLAIN AURORA PUBLISHER'S CASE

DOJ chief relieves prosecutor for bias

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez has relieved the prosecutor handling the case of a murdered publisher in Aurora over "serious allegations of partiality and bias" for a mayor whom the victim's relatives wanted charged as "mastermind" in the killing.

Bulacan board exec, soldier dead in ambush

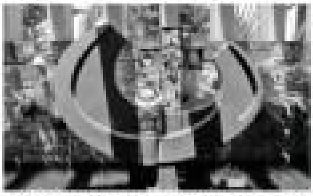
Program saves whale sharks from slaughter

Governor orders log ban in Muslim Mindanao

Army official assures safety of radioman in 'order of battle'

Chapel built on hope draws steady stream of pilgrims

7TH STATION of the Cross: Simon lifts a helping hand.



4TH STATION of the Cross: "I'm mocked and flogged for your follies."

CHAPEL of the Magnificat at Marist School in Marikina City.

CSC reels from GMA prerogative to appoint gov't executives

'Abadilla 5' death convicts seek help of United Nations

ACTIVIST priest Fr. Robert Reyes protests the slow resolution of the Abadilla 5 and other cases in the Supreme Court in a 2004 picture.

SC decision

Further delay

Optional protocol

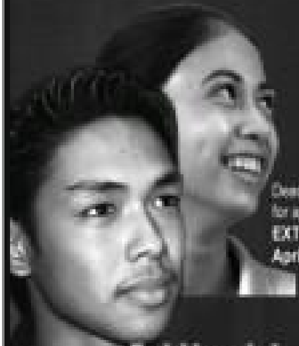
Marcosian ploy seen in 'people's initiative'

Power of patronage

Resurrecting Marcos

Cutting edge

One cloud after another



Senators to block Cha-cha campaign

What is it about? JDV's people ask

Mood of urgency

Nation's future

JDV defends initiative

LOTTO RESULT

EZ2 | SUERTRES

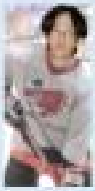
SUPERLOTTO 6/49

₱60,905,221.20

MAY SUPERPOWERS
SA BAWAT PAKABIT
NG PLDT LANDLINE!
SUPERPOWER NO.1
PLDT NDD UNLIMITED TAWAGAN
FREE SMART BUDDY SIM
SUPERPOWER NO.3
DSL-LANDLINE TIPID BUNDLE
P500 NA LANG ANG INSTALLATION FEE!
SUPER LAKING TIPID TALAGA! MAGPAKABIT NA! NOW NA!
CALL
171
PLDT
Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline

Aplus METRO

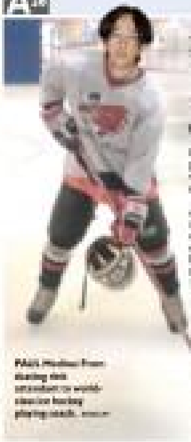
What's Inside



- Tales of the City: Ice hockey teacher one of Asia's best

Makati drug 'mini-mart' raided

No reason to probe Singson yet, say police



LIFE ON THE BALANCE

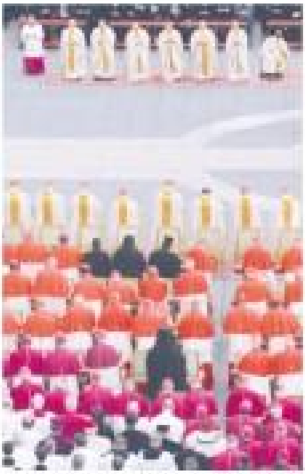
Ice hockey teacher one of Asia's best

First time

Moving like a pro

Best player

Sponsors wanted



Pope appeals for Christian convert facing death sentence

Russia denies US charge that it spied for Saddam

Pontiff gives golden rings to new cardinals in final rites of first consistory

The WORLD

Bigger second-day rally

Half million in LA slam immigration crackdown

LOS ANGELES—IMMIGRATION RIGHTS ADVOcates more than 500,000 strong marched in downtown Los Angeles, demanding that Congress abandon attempts to make helping illegal immigrants a crime and to build more walls along the border.

THOUSANDS of demonstrators march along the streets of downtown Los Angeles to protest legislation that cracks down against illegal immigrants March 25.

BUSH in downtown Wheeling, W.Va.

Bush charms as he makes case for Iraq

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA—NO MATTER his audience, President George W. Bush is drawing on his plainspoken manner in freewheeling sessions to defend his Iraq strategy.

SPORTS

Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres

Pingris hot as Giants crush lethargic Aces

By Jonas Manares

THERE WAS NO NEED FOR Marc Pingris to impose himself in the critical second half. His early heroics proved enough.

BAP to pursue readmission bid, says embattled sec-gen

By Joanne W. Paps

Ames survives scary day at Sawgrass

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BAP to pursue readmission bid . . .

BOXING HEROES

Jainul takes 2 titles in Basilan

Rain or Shine, Toyota Otis in winning starts

Top Canadian hope leads rout of Pinoys

Castillo, Alcala win, gain q'finals

Sta. Elena Cup boon to caddies

'Fearless' set at Metrowalk

Clippers breach 40-win plateau

Who will head Pilipinas Basketball?

CLEAN LIVING

UCLA, LSU make Final 4

Entertainment

Piolo Pascual in indie film

PIOLO Pascual in "Kagat" (left) and Gina Pareño in "Kubrador"

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

> Gina Pareño is another mainstream star taking the brave new route

MORE MAINSTREAM STARS are doing independent movies.

[illegible]

DID YOU KNOW...

HOLLYWOOD [illegible]

Movie high at 35,000 feet

Viewfinder

Nestor U. Torre

Jasmine Trias

Tom Jones

First death anniversary

MTV Summer Break

Easy English seminars

Movies on TV

Sam Concepcion

'I hear famous people'

A-list celebrities get into the advertising voiceover act

JULIA Roberts for AOL; George Clooney for Budweiser

QUEEN Latifah for Pizza Hut; Kevin Spacey for Honda.

Mystified

More genuine

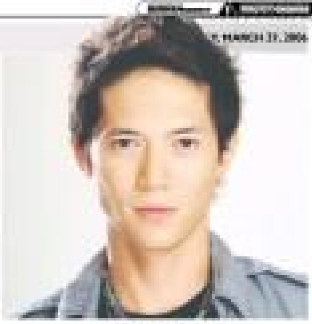
AT THE CINEMAS

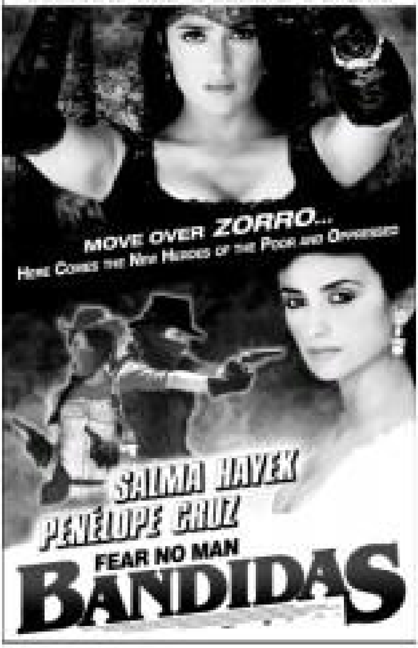
Cinema				
G1	1 V FOR VENDETTA	2 ULTRAVIOLET	3 SHE'S THE MAN	4 GLORY ROAD
G4	1 NANNY MCPHEE	2 SHE'S THE MAN	3 ULTRAVIOLET	
	4 HOSTEL	5 GLORY ROAD	6 NORTH COUNTRY	7 V FOR VENDETTA
GB1	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 NORTH COUNTRY		
GB3	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 NORTH COUNTRY		
	3 GLORY ROAD	4 V FOR VENDETTA	5 NANNY MCPHEE	
ATC	1 NORTH COUNTRY	2 NANNY MCPHEE		
	3 ULTRAVIOLET	4 SHE'S THE MAN	5 GLORY ROAD	
ACC	1 CASANOVA	2 LAST HOLIDAY	3 FINAL DESTINATION 3	4 SYRIANA
M2	1 ULTRAVIOLET	2 NORTH COUNTRY		
	3 GLORY ROAD	4 NANNY MCPHEE	5 SHE'S THE MAN	

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	TOWN
[illegible]	[illegible]
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
[illegible]	[illegible]

Exit Rustom Padilla

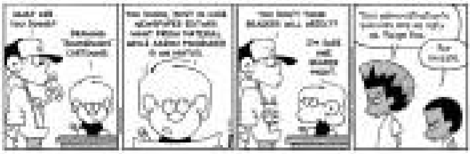




'CSI: NY' Season 2 premieres April 4

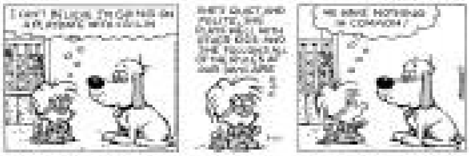
ComicRelief

FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND

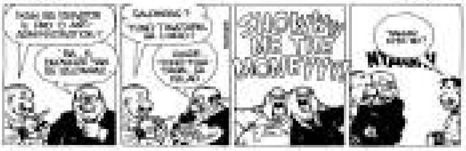


A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG

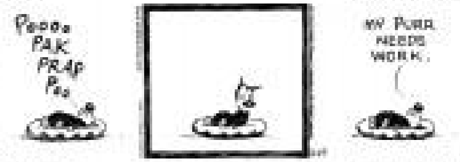


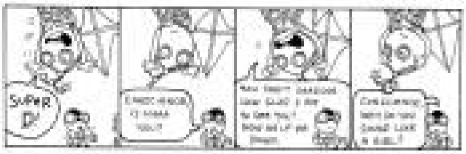
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR



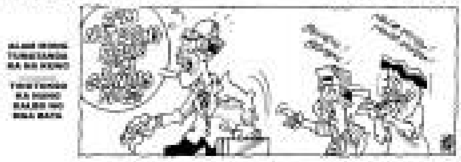
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT

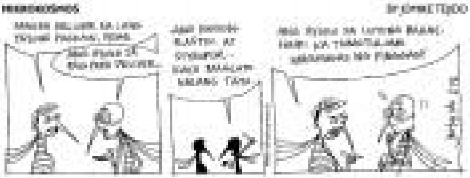
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL





DIVINE COMEDY





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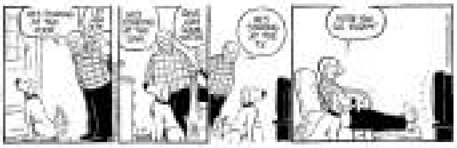


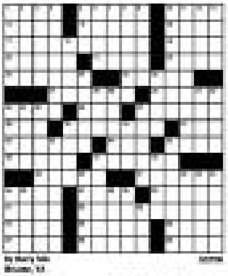
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

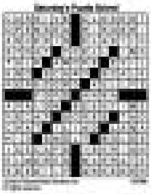
LOVESHOTS

TULDOK

Horoscope

Daily Crossword



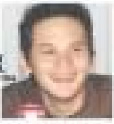


Educating Nita

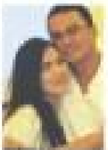
A former schoolteacher got a different kind of education in the movies, and found a new calling as coloratura soprano after her retirement

Yesterday

Is she worth it—in dollars?



Rushes



METRO MANILA

- NANNY McPHEE
- NORTH COUNTRY

- ULTRAVIOLET
- V FOR VENDETTA
- THE DARK
- RESERVED
- SHE'S THE MAN
- NANNY McPHEE
- GLORY ROAD
- SHAGGY DOG
- 16 BLOCKS
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- FEARLESS
- NORTH COUNTRY

- NANNY McPHEE
- GLORY ROAD
- NORTH COUNTRY
- RESERVED
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- SHE'S THE MAN
- V FOR VENDETTA
- ULTRAVIOLET

- THE DARK
- UNDERCLASS MAN
- SHAGGY DOG
- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE

- 16 BLOCKS
- HOUSE OF FURY
- THE DARK
- V FOR VENDETTA
- GLORY ROAD
- SHE'S THE MAN
- ULTRAVIOLET
- NANNY McPHEE
- FEARLESS
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- CLOSE TO YOU
- SHAGGY DOG

- ULTRAVIOLET
- V FOR VENDETTA
- NANNY McPHEE
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- SHE'S THE MAN
- FEARLESS
- GLORY ROAD
- 16 BLOCKS
- NORTH COUNTRY
- SHAGGY DOG

- ULTRAVIOLET
- HOUSE OF FURY
- THE DARK
- V FOR VENDETTA

- SHE'S THE MAN
- ULTRAVIOLET
- V FOR VENDETTA
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- GLORY ROAD
- NANNY McPHEE

- GLORY ROAD
- V FOR VENDETTA
- SHE'S THE MAN
- ULTRAVIOLET
- NANNY McPHEE
- 16 BLOCKS
- SHAGGY DOG
- FEARLESS
- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- THE DARK
- NORTH COUNTRY

- ULTRAVIOLET
- 16 BLOCKS
- NORTH COUNTRY
- V FOR VENDETTA
- NANNY McPHEE
- GLORY ROAD
- SHE'S THE MAN
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- FEARLESS
- RESERVED

- SHAGGY DOG
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- HOUSE OF FURY
- GLORY ROAD

- HOUSE OF FURY
- ULTRAVIOLET
- V FOR VENDETTA
- 16 BLOCKS

LUZON

- 16 BLOCKS
- SHAGGY DOG
- THE DARK
- V FOR VENDETTA

- V FOR VENDETTA
- HOUSE OF FURY
- SHAGGY DOG
- THE DARK

- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
- THE DARK
- FEARLESS
- AEON FLUX

- FEARLESS
- GLORY ROAD
- V FOR VENDETTA
- SHAGGY DOG
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- SHE'S THE MAN
- HOUSE OF FURY
- BREAKING NEWS

- CASANOVA
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
- 16 BLOCKS

- SYRIANA
- SHAGGY DOG
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- V FOR VENDETTA
- THE DARK
- 16 BLOCKS

- FEARLESS
- SHAGGY DOG
- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
- AEON FLUX

- SHAGGY DOG
- HOUSE OF FURY
- V FOR VENDETTA
- CRY WOLF

VISAYAS MINDANAO

- SYRIANA
- CASANOVA
- V FOR VENDETTA
- LAST HOLIDAY
- CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
- FEARLESS
- NEW WORLD
- HOUSE OF FURY

- FEARLESS
- RESERVED
- SYRIANA
- CRY WOLF
- V FOR VENDETTA
- SHAGGY DOG
- RESERVED
- PRIDE & PREJUDICE

- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
- GOAL
- V FOR VENDETTA
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- PRIDE & PREJUDICE
- NEW WORLD

- NEW WORLD
- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
- 16 BLOCKS

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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FOR ALL BRANCHES

GALLERIA

1 NORTH COUNTRY
2 NANNY McPHEE
3 GLORY ROAD
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 ULTRAVIOLET
6 SHE'S THE MAN
7 CO-ED SCANDAL
8 CASANOVA
9 HOSTEL
10 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

ERMITA

1 NANNY McPHEE
2 HOSTEL / V FOR VENDETTA
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 CO-ED SCANDAL
5 SHE'S THE MAN
6 NORTH COUNTRY
7 GLORY ROAD

METRO EAST

1 HOUSE OF FURY
2 NANNY McPHEE
3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 HOSTEL
6 CO-ED SCANDAL
7 GLORY ROAD
8 ULTRAVIOLET

NOVALICHES

1 ULTRAVIOLET
2 GLORY ROAD
3 HOSTEL
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 NANNY McPHEE

CITISQUARE MALABON

1 HOSTEL
2 TIGER BLADE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 NANNY McPHEE
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 GLORY ROAD

STA. ROSA

1 16 BLOCKS
2 CASANOVA
3 TIGER BLADE
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

LIPA

1 CASANOVA
2 SYRIANA
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 DATE MOVIE

DASMARINAS

1 DATE MOVIE
2 TIGER BLADE
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 THE DARK
5 SHAGGY DOG

ANGELES

1 SYRIANA
2 CASANOVA
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 16 BLOCKS

IMUS

1 GLORY ROAD
2 HOSTEL
3 V FOR VENDETTA
4 HOUSE OF FURY

STARMILLS

1 TIGER BLADE
2 MURDER
3 SHAGGY DOG
4 V FOR VENDETTA
5 SYRIANA
6 THE DARK

BACOLOD

1 16 BLOCKS
2 DATE MOVIE
3 CASANOVA
4 GOAL
5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
6 V FOR VENDETTA

ILOILO

1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 SHAGGY DOG
3 DATE MOVIE
4 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
5 SYRIANA

Entertainment

Roundup

Randy Quaid

'Brokeback' suit

Reuters

Jackson

'Penguins' spoof

Reuters

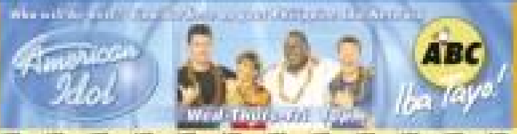
'Housewives' video game

Reuters

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Monday, March 27, 2006



TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Dennis S. Marinas

Peso rally to help gov't trim deficit

GOLDEN AT THE PSE

S&P exec says impact on exporters minimal

By Doris C. Dumlao

CLARK, PAMPANGA—GLOBAL RATING FIRM Standard & Poor's sees the rising peso favoring the Philippine government's fiscal reform momentum and is thus a welcome development despite some trade-offs in terms of export earnings.

"Given the Philippines' external leverage, the peso appreciation is positive to the extent that it will reduce the cost of servicing external debt," S&P associate director for sovereign ratings Agost Benard said.

Benard was the guest speaker at the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines-San Miguel Corp. business writing seminar here.

He cited government estimates that for every P1 appreciation against the dollar, interest payments would go down by more than P4 billion.

While some exporters may be getting hurt because of the peso appreciation against the dollar, he said the overall impact would

PESO B4

CURRENCIES

STOCK MARKET

Profit-taking seen

PROFIT-TAKING B1

WHAT'S INSIDE

Another $6M needed to finish Naia 3

By Dennis L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT MUST SPEND at least $6 million more to complete the controversial Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and bring it to full operational status.

According to the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the additional funds will be sourced from the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), which oversees the operations of Naia.

"There's still 2 percent which needs to be completed and we need about $6 million for that," Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza told reporters last Friday.

He declined to disclose details about the remaining work that needed to be done on Terminal 3, but described these as "just small items."

NAIA B4

GMA-7 IPO to circumvent ban on foreign ownership

Shares to be bundled with depositary receipts

By Darwin L. Lucas

GMA NETWORK INC., METRO MANILA'S television ratings leader, will simultaneously sell its shares to the public along with depositary receipts that will allow foreigners to circumvent the ban on foreign ownership of local media entities.

The novel plan was revealed by GMA Network chair and president Felipe L. Gozon last Saturday to a media briefing where he explained the prospects of the firm.

Winston: Game over soon

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Ernst & Young on the spot

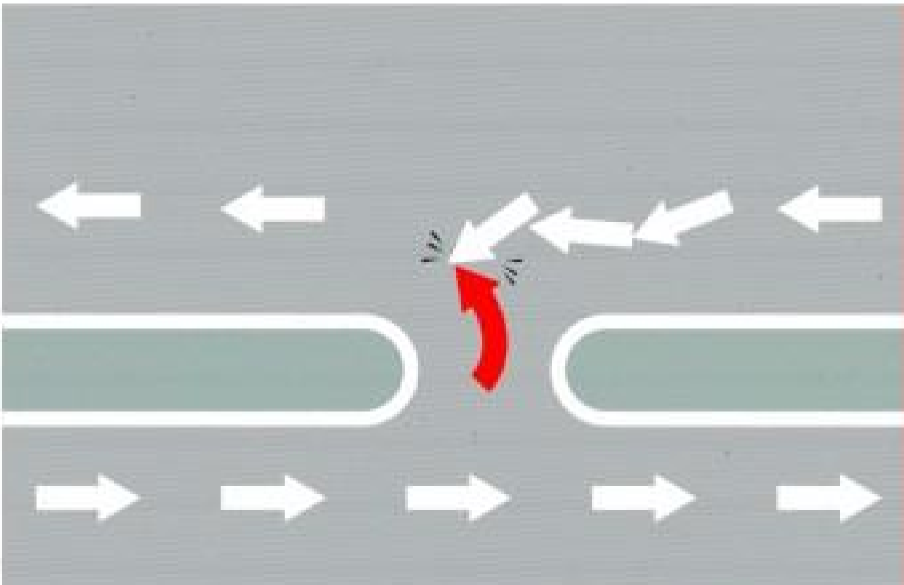
Audi zooms up

Heard through the grapevine

Industrial park to rise in Clark

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Peso rally to help ...



BOO for driver's licenses

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

Not just IPPs and MRT

How it works

Six objectives

Human factor

US gets lion's share of VCO trade

RP steps up promotion of health product through trade shows

THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN GOBBLING up shipments of virgin coconut oil (VCO) from the Philippines, prompting the government to step up efforts to promote the product this year, according to the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Data from the PCA show that the United States accounted for the 35.5 percent of the 445 metric tons of VCO shipped out of the Philip-

Megaworld sees 30% jump in '06 profit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY DEVELOPER MEGAWORLD Corp. is upbeat about the prospects for its office and residential projects as it sees its net income surging 30 percent this year.

Megaworld chair Andrew Tan told reporters during a briefing last Friday that company revenues were expected to grow by at least 25 percent.

In 2005, Megaworld reported a 42-percent jump in net income to P1.15 billion from P808 million the year before. Revenues were also up 19.8 percent year-on-year to P8.22 billion.

This year, Megaworld expects its residential projects in Fort Bonifacio—Bellagio, Forbeswood Parklane and McKinley Hill Village—and The Residential Resort at Newport City at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, to be major sales drivers.

Bellagio and Forbeswood Parklane are part of the P33-billion Forbes Town Center at the Global City. McKinley Hill Village, which offers fast-selling subdivision lots to a high-end market, is the first residential phase of Megaworld's 50-hectare McKinley Hill mixed-use project in Fort Bonifacio. The Residential Resort, meanwhile, is a low-density 3.7-hectare community close to the Villamor golf course.

Ongoing residential projects contributed to the company's strong earnings performance in 2005. These included Eastwood Parkview, Grand Eastwood Palazzo and One Orchard Road in Eastwood City, Forbeswood Heights at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig and Greenbelt Chancellor and Greenbelt Madisons in Makati.

In 2005, rental income also shows up increases, which climbed to P347.6 million from P324.6 million in 2004. Megaworld's flagship project Eastwood City accounted for bulk of the rental earnings, with its Cyber One office building and City Walk 2 leisure strip posting strong occupancy levels last year.

The company has current assets of about P33 billion.

Megaworld will also try to drum up interest from investors in Hong Kong, Singapore and London during a public offer of roughly 3.9 billion shares next month, officials said during the briefing last Friday.

Megaworld will offer up to 3.72 billion common shares to foreign investors and up to 390.15 million common shares to local investors. Around 588.5 million shares will be available under an over-allotment option.

"The offer (with the over-allotment) would translate to potential proceeds of between P5.4 billion to P6 billion for the company, which it can use to fund its growing list of projects," [illegible] Capital Online said in a recent report.

Megaworld kicked off its domestic roadshow last Friday with several stockbrokers and institutional buyers present at the showroom of Forbes Town Center, one of Megaworld's prime township projects in Bonifacio Global City.

Semirara net profit up 11%

COAL PRODUCER Semirara Mining Corp. said its net profit last year rose 11 percent to P1.6 billion from the previous year's restated net profit of P1.4 billion on higher coal prices.

In 2005, average coal prices increased by 12 percent to P2,005 a metric ton from P1,574 the year before.

Revenues also grew 13 percent to P5.6 billion from P5.1 billion.

Production increased to a historic level of 2.9 million metric tons, up 16 percent from the previous year's 2.5 million metric tons due to additional production and support equipment deployed under its continuing expansion and modernization program.

Sales volume, however, dipped slightly by 34,000 metric tons or 1 percent to 2.48 million metric tons in 2005 from 2.51 million metric tons in 2004 largely because of the prolonged maintenance shutdown at the National Power Corp.'s [illegible] coal fired power plant in Calaca, Batangas.

Deliveries to Calaca in 2005 dropped by 16 percent to 1.22 million metric tons from 2004 sales volume of 1.45 million metric tons.

But the company increased deliveries to [illegible] independent power producers operating the power plants in Sual, Pangasinan, and in Pagbilao, Quezon.

Sual and Pagbilao posted higher volumes of 147,000 metric tons and 61,000 metric tons, respectively.

Likewise, new [illegible] customers increased their purchases by 55,000 metric tons. [illegible]

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

[illegible]

CURRENCIES

[illegible]

[illegible]

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CAINTA, RIZAL [illegible]
LAS PIÑAS [illegible]
MANILA [illegible]
MAKATI [illegible]
MARIKINA [illegible]
MONTALBAN, RIZAL [illegible]
MUNTINLUPA [illegible]
QUEZON CITY [illegible]
TAGUIG [illegible]
TAYTAY, RIZAL [illegible]
VALENZUELA [illegible]
BULACAN [illegible]
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MALAMPAYA CONSORTIUM

First Gas settles dispute over supply agreement

MANILA ELECTRIC CO. (MERALCO) CONsumers are expected to benefit from lower rates arising from the recent settlement deal between First Gas Power Corp. (FGPC), FGP Corp. (FGP) and the Malampaya Natural Gas Consortium (SC 38) composed of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., Shell Philippines, Chevron Malampaya, and PNOC Exploration Corp.

FGPC and FGP settled and signed agreements last March 22 with the Malampaya Natural Gas Consortium to resolve disputes on their Gas Sales and Purchase Agreements (GSPAs). The Malampaya consortium supplies natural gas to FGPC's 1,000-MW Sta. Rita power plant and FGP's 500-MW San Lorenzo plants in Batangas.

From an initial $211.5 million, FGPC and FGP were able to lower the payment claims of the Malampaya consortium to $[illegible] million, resulting in an initial savings of $[illegible] million. The payment claims were further reduced to $134.7 million as another $[illegible] million was deducted as payment for the gas used in excess of its contracted quantity in 2005. Thus, total savings due to the settlement deal reached $96 million.

"The settlement deal would mean lower costs to end-consumers of Meralco says FGPC and FGP to generate more electricity beyond its annual contracted volume," said Peter D. Garrucho, First Gas Holdings Corp. vice-chair and CEO.

The lower costs will come from the substantial savings obtained because of the settlement deal and, because it is insulated against lower natural gas prices in 2002 to 2004. It can be noted that the purchase of fuel for power generation is a pass-through charge to end-consumers. Thus, any savings on fuel costs translate to lower rates for consumers.

The settlement also gave FGPC and FGP's payment deferral. FGPC and FGP will pay on a quarterly basis until December 2009. FGPC and FGP will be credited to a "banked gas" corresponding to the payments made under the settlement. The agreements also allow FGPC and FGP to prepay all or part of the outstanding balance. The settlement will take effect once the agreed conditions and procedures of the agreements are satisfied.

The agreements were signed by Garrucho and First Gas senior vice president Richard Tantoco, SPEX managing director [illegible] and Paul van der Hanten, Chevron Malampaya operations manager Romeo Sola, and PNOC-EC president Eduardo V. Mañalac.

FOREIGN DEMAND RISING

Bright prospects seen for organic, herbal goods

What do we do with a problem like Fidel Ramos?—II

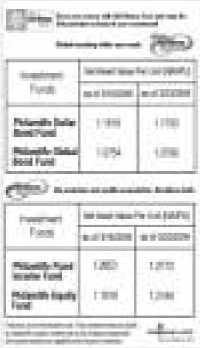
QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

Gov't plans bond swap

By Doris C. Dumlao

[illegible]



MONDAY
MARCH 27, 2006

BUSINESS

Peza holds benefits for John Hay ecozone

Construction of ₱2-B Daraga airport set

Profit-taking seen

Another $6M . . .

Bright prospects . . .

Lucrative prices await RP mangoes in Australia

Camarines Sur to invest in bio-diesel plan

Entrepreneurial ventures

Rudolf Diesel

Global trend

BSP eases regulations for forex dealers

By Doris C. Dumlao

₱1.7-B power plant in Mindoro planned

By Abigail L. Ho

What . . .

We're just doing our job, ERC says after fining Transco

By Abigail L. Ho

EVEN AFTER SLAPPING a P9.4-million fine on the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) for its failure to seek approval for 37 projects, the Energy Regulatory Commission said it did not intend to cause delays in the implementation of crucial transmission projects.

ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said in a statement that the imposition of the fine was not intended to be an order compelling Transco to stop ongoing projects.

"These projects have implications on the surety of end-consumers," Albano said. "The ERC is merely doing its job of ensuring that the projects will not be prejudicial to stakeholders of the electric power industry. The ERC is certain that this is also a concern shared by Transco."

The P9.4-million penalty, he explained, was for Transco's non-compliance to a provision in the RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira). According to the provision, Transco has to seek ERC approval before implementing a project.

Albano said the objective of that particular Epira provision was to ensure that consumers would not be burdened with "costs of items found to be unnecessary for the needs of the present and the foreseeable future."

"The items disallowed by the ERC will not form part of the rates to be charged to Transco customers," he explained.

Albano said the ERC was not the "cause of delay" in the projects that Transco wanted to implement, as the regulatory body was simply doing its job.

The state firm, Albano said, should have paid more attention to the procedures for undertaking capital projects, which included prior approval from the ERC.

"Again, the ERC has not issued any order to prevent Transco from proceeding with its capital projects," he said. "It only asks Transco to comply with the requirements set by law and to pay the penalties for its violations."

The ERC recently handed down a decision slapping Transco with P9.4 million worth of fines for implementing 37 projects, including the Cebu-Negros and Mindanao interconnection projects, without ERC approval.

Of the 39 projects, six were exempted from the penalty as Transco was able to justify that these were undertaken by independent power producers and not by Transco itself.

US gets ...

From page B1

prices from January to November 2005.

The volume of VCO exported during the 11-month period was 111 percent higher than the 177 MT sold overseas throughout 2004.

In current prices, the value of exports rose to about $1.6 billion in the 11 months of 2005 or 38.5 percent higher than the $553.5 million posted by end-2004.

According to the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines, the US has imported 418 MT of VCO from the Philippines as of November last year.

Ucap said this volume was lower than the 96 percent market share of the EU in 2004, when local exporters tapped more markets in Europe and Asia.

Ireland was the biggest European market, with shipments reaching 6 MT, while Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom each bought 2 MT of VCO.

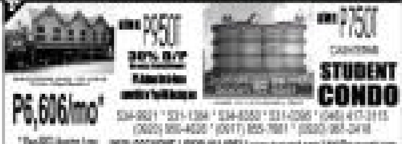
Last week, local traders and government officials promoted the product through the Natural Products Expo West (NPEW) held in Anaheim, California.

Celia B. Samonte, a business development manager with the Department of Trade and Industry said in an interview that Vitanola Philippines Inc. and Peninsula International Products took part in the NPEW expo.

NPEW is the largest natural products trade show in the US. It attracted 37,000 retailers and manufacturers from 80 countries last year.

Vitanola and Peninsula joined four other local firms engaged in the manufacturing of natural and organic products.

The NPEW event marked the formal "debut" of Philippine VCO in the international organic and natural market.



S&P not ready to raise RP rating

BUSINESS Monday

Watch out for the hidden costs

In the Visayas, tuition hikes are minimal but the extra costs add up

College levels

High school expenses

Expensive transport fees

Private education

Corporate governance in the Philippine Stock Exchange

MAPping THE FUTURE

Francisco Ed. Lim

Zealous disciples

RP doing better

PSE's role

Watch out for the hidden costs

> Tuition here has dropped 10-11%, CHEd says

From page B3-1

last year's fees, an elementary school paid about P20,000 while a high school student pays from P30,000 to P32,000.

A pre-schooler of Ateneo de Iloilo (formerly Sta. Maria Catholic School) pays about P27,342. Elementary students pay around P30,000 to P40,000 while secondary school students pay from P35,000 to P40,000. These include miscellaneous fees.

At the tertiary level, fees have slightly gone down because fewer students enrolled due to lack of money, said CHEd.

The Regional CHEd reports tuition rates dropped an average of 10 to 11 percent the last two school years. Students pay P279 to P848 per unit.

Dr. Freddie [illegible], CHEd Education Supervisor II, said out of 74 Higher Education Institutions in Western Visayas, only less than 20 of the schools have applied for tuition increases compared to last year's 23.

[illegible] adds that some HEIs increase their "other fees," something that CHEd does not have any control.

CHEd also reports that in the last two years, the same HEIs charge fees of P800 to P850 per unit in their graduate schools (masteral and doctoral levels).

Public universities

It's a different story altogether with government subsidized universities like the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and the West Visayas State University that both have the Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program.

UPV uses the income bracket system through consultations with the student and verification of his economic status while WVSU uses the "laddered" system where students submit the necessary requirements upon enrollment and the administration determines what bracket the student belongs, imposing different tuition and other fees for every year level with the first year students paying the most.

The National Union of Students of the Philippines claims in its research that in the last 13 years, 40.8 percent of the total population of the UP system are paying their full matriculation fee and only 0.8 percent belong to brackets 1 to 5 or students who do not pay other fees.

"UP's bracket system and WVSU's laddered systems are actually different forms of tuition fee increases," said Karen [illegible], [illegible] Anakbayan chair and a graduate of Political Science and Sociology from UPV.

BUSINESS Monday

Students tighten belts, spend wisely

Noodles and pan de sal for breakfast, budget meals for rest of day

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION building at the Bicol University

Medical transcription jobs up

BUSINESS *Monday*

Junior taipans to ask China to invest in RP

Council promotes local shores, to focus on mining and tourism

FROM CHINA THEY CAME AND TO CHINA THEY ARE GOING back. This is the strategy adopted by the young heirs of the taipans who have banded together under the Philippine-China Business Council, to lead the campaign to get more Chinese investors to take advantage of business opportunities in the Philippines.

National Artist writes Pinoy website on wise use of credit

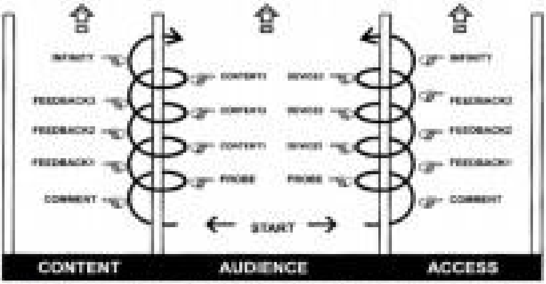
Credit cards can make or break your finances

Rebuilding the old Cebu Plaza

Junior taipans to ask China …

M2M conference set on March 30

iBlog, iPodcast: Citizen journalism using tech



Media redefined

Three components

InfoTech

iBlog, iPodcast: Citizen journalism using tech

Special Report

Content creators

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

Larger than life, Wilwayco-style

The artist gives a sneak preview of his new works, abstract murals in oval canvas

FROM STAGE TO FILM

'Rent' gets a new lease on life

Broadway hit

Unprecedented

TAYE Diggs

HOW HAS A BOOK CHANGED MY LIFE?

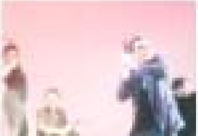
A book that brings out lessons of life

Iligan workshop now accepting applications

Elie Wiesel's 'Night' returns

Focus on Updike

Summer workshops at Gantimpala



BROTHERS Carlo and Paolo Sibal at the Picture Books Corner with Dennis Gonzales, NBDB chair

LAWYER José Sison, Justice José Perez, Ms Sison and Ring Sibal-Limjoco

Centralbooks opens new store

THE SUPERMALE CENTRALBOOKS, THE country's oldest legal publisher, opened its eighth branch at the 2/F Chateau 2 (in front of Goodwill) in the Ayala Center in Makati City.

Welcoming the guests were José Agaton R. Sibal, José Paolo and Juan Carlos, Centralbooks' publishers.

Fr. Boogie Tarrazo Jr., SM, opened the branch ceremonies with a blessing.

Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Elmer Hernandez and National Books Development Board chair Dennis Gonzales led the ribbon-cutting ceremonies. They were assisted by Ring Sibal-Limjoco, Phoenix Publishing vice president, and Nancy Sibal-Bellen, Phoenix Publishing executive vice president.

Agaton Sibal, in his welcome remarks, said Centralbooks is the first bookstore in the country to be digitally equipped, offering the latest innovations in book publishing.

He was referring to Publish on Demand and Picture Books, which makes possible the easy printing of digital files and manuscripts to a complete, professional, perfect-bound book in a matter of minutes regardless of copies; as well as Picture Books, which prints into book form digital photos from CDs, memory card or even from Bluetooth-enabled cell phone camera.

Attending the affair were legal luminaries and authors such as Justice José R. Perez and lawyers José Sison, David Zhorovack, Michael Anthony Clemente, Adrian M. Hernandez, and Francisco Tiamzon Jr.

Other guests included architects Andrew de las Alas and Antonio Tan, Ricky Muñez, Arnel Lin Oliva and Arnold Aldana of Fuji Xerox; and lawyer Anthony Simpson of Simpson, Negre Gonzalez, Camille and Tony Yap, Gabby Frera, Joby Ocera and Mike Roman.

LAW books corner

Fuji Xerox group of Ricky Muñez, Arnel Lin Oliva and Arnold Aldana

New edition of 'Lola Basyang' stories

FANS OF LOLA BASYANG stories need not wait much longer. Tahanan Books will launch the first volume of "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang" by Severino Reyes today, 5-7 p.m., at Jaymi's Grill, Par 43 at Fort Bonifacio. The public is invited.

The 12 stories in the anthology were selected by Christine S. Bellen. The book contains an introduction by Bienvenido Lumbera and is handsomely illustrated by award-winning illustrator Felix Mago Miguel.

Avid "Basyang" fans may once again bask in the riveting adventures spun by a clay bespectacled old lady now fondly known by several generations as simply "Lola Basyang." In this book you will find scorned mermaids, talking statues, princes cursed and transformed and other unforgettable characters in [illegible] stories of adventure, humor and romance.

Severino Reyes first published the much beloved "Lola Basyang" stories in Liwayway Magazine in 1925. Using elements from both western and western tales, Reyes has retold and adapted close to 300 stories for Filipino readers. The author died in 1942.

Distributed by Tahanan Books and published with permission from the Severino Reyes (Lola Basyang) Publishing Corporation, "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang" is available at National Book Store, Powerbooks and Fully Booked at a cover price of ₱[illegible].

Call [illegible] or e-mail marketing@tahananbooks.com

"ST. HELENA My Favorite Saint"

Al Perez's sturdy art

"SAN AGUSTIN Church"

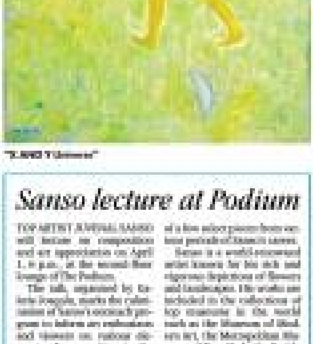
THE UNFADING GLORY OF THE COUNTRY'S ancient Roman Catholic churches is the palette and identity of Al Perez. The art looks quaint and romantic, no doubt because the subject is inherently quaint and romantic, but also because it is suffused with the artist's devotional spirit, something that harks back from deep inside the collective faith across the centuries.

Marian piety and artistic bonding

"TOKYO Landscape," by Gil Reyes

Modesto's playful peregrinations

"THE ANGEL Peeping through the Window"



Sanso lecture at Podium

Larger than life, Wilwayco-style

"SUMMER Solstice," oil on canvas, 2003

FROM the "Blues" series, shaped screen, 2000

Action painting

WILWAYCO at work on "Ovals"

Eloquent ovals

"TROPICAL Paradise," shaped screen, 1998

Unlikely marriage of Social Realism and Dada

Carnivalesque imagery

Twisted genre pieces

Referring landmark art

"BEHOLD the Man," by Lydia Velasco

"LAMB of God," by Norman Dreo

'Kristo' exhibit at Nine

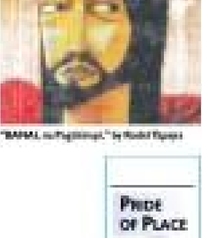
THE ANNUAL "KRISTO" EXHIBIT ORGANIZED by artist Salvador Ching will open on April 4. The show, which displays different artists' renditions of the passion of Christ, is titled "Behold" this year and is organized by The Artery as a tribute to young artist Romeo Forbes, who died last month of cancer of the blood.

Participating artists include [illegible] and Emmanuel Villaflor.

The exhibit is curated by Jocelyn Villar of the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences.

All works are priced uniformly. Part of the proceeds will go to the family of the late Romeo Forbes.

"Behold" runs until April 15. Call [illegible].



"BAHAL na/Pagtitimpi," by Rodel Tapaya

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Augusto Villalon's Pride of Place column will resume publication next week.